

NEWS

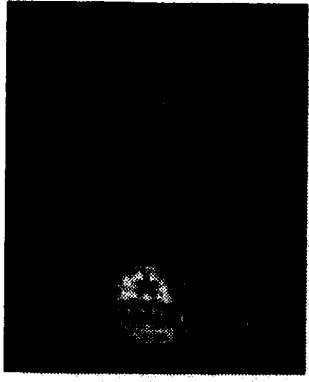
Friday, December 12, 2003

The Behrend Beacon

by Heather Peterson,
staff writer

Question of the Week

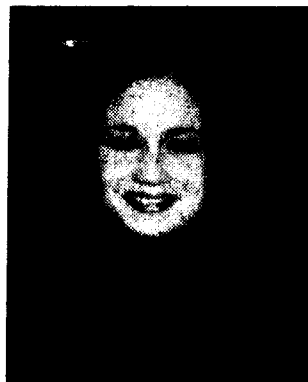
"How long will you spend preparing for final exams?"



"Probably 20 hours."
Karl Bierly
MET, 05



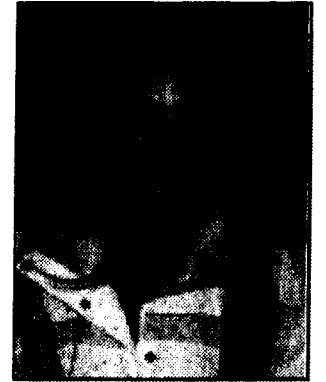
"Probably eight or nine."
Danni Payer
DUS, 01



"20 hours."
Paige Payer
DUS, 01



"Two or three days ahead of time."
Sean Moskes
ME, 03



"Around 17 to 20 hours."
Loriel Herist
DUS, 01

Students enter the Lion's Den

by Jessica Allegretto
staff writer

The bleachers are filled with eager fans clad in blue and white T-shirts waving colorful posters and chanting sing-song cheers. The ball drops through the hoop and the crowd goes wild. ...

Maybe in a movie, maybe at another school, but scenes like this rarely occur here at Penn State Behrend.

Perhaps because of a lack of free time, or maybe a simple lack of interest, student involvement at Behrend sporting events is nearly non-existent.

If you failed to notice the persistent e-mails, mailbox supplements, handouts and giant banners, the athletic department is doing everything it can to boost student attendance at games. Nearly every home game features some sort of promotional give-away, including free magnets, pom poms, Max and Erma's gift certificates, \$100 in Circuit City money, pizza and a DVD player.

The Erie Otters and Seawolves are both scheduled to attend games later this season, yet student turnout continues to be low.

"Our teams are very competitive," said

Stacy Pondo. "The men are 5-0 and the women are 4-3, but there's still a lack of people coming out to the games."

In an attempt to combat this problem and attract more student participation at campus sporting events, the athletic department, along with the Behrend softball team, has formed a group known as the Lion's Den. Those who have elected to join the organization function basically as a spirit squad.

Stacy Pondo explained, "They're there to create spirit. ... we want people to be involved whether they're athletes or not."

"It's a really great way to show your school spirit," softball player and Lion's Den member Stephanie Covert said about the program. "Our school really lacks school spirit."

The Lion's Den consists of 25 core members as well as several other students who have joined since the establishment of the group earlier this year. Participants wear matching T-shirts to the men's and women's basketball games, cheer on the Lions and even at times allegedly taunt the opposing team.

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Members of the Lion's Den raise their hands during a free-throw attempt at a recent women's basketball game.

PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

Thanks a Latte awards groups

by Courtney Straub
news editor

Last Thursday the Thanks a Latte Service Awards were held in Bruno's. Student organizations were recognized for doing community service projects.

"I think students are always happy to be recognized for doing something out of the ordinary," said Kelly ShROUT, Coordinator of Community Service and The Smith Chapel.

Many students anxiously awaited to see if their club or organization had won an award.

"Five of the six award-winning groups had a representative present to accept the awards," said ShROUT.

To receive an award, clubs and organizations must fill out community service forms and turn them into ShROUT. Their projects can include many different activities.

These awards give students something to feel proud about. Numerous clubs and organizations give back to the

community, and these awards are a way for them to feel appreciated.

"It's very nice that Behrend supports community service," said Lauren Piera, PLSC 07, who accepted an award on behalf of Alpha Phi Omega.

Along with handing out awards,

Bruno's Coffee Shop gave out free coffee during the ceremony.

"Judging by the lines at the coffee shop, I would say we had a really good turnout," said Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs.



Smith Chapel Coordinator of Community Service Kelly ShROUT presents Lauren Piera of Alpha Phi Omega with an award at the Thanks a Latte awards program.

PHOTO BY THE RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF

Reid has creative fiction novel published, comments on style

by B.J. Shields
staff writer

Nicole Louise Reid, a lecturer in the Creative Writing Program at Behrend, recently released her debut novel, "In the Breeze of Passing Things." The 273 page hardback is currently being distributed to major bookstore chains and independent booksellers. It is available for \$22 at the Erie Book Store and the Behrend campus bookstore.

"I won't know how many copies have been sold until April when I receive my first publishers report," said Reid. "On Amazon.com, though, it is moving up in the sales rankings."

Reid began working on the novel

about a year and a half ago, after a college professor recommended she develop a novel based on one of her short stories.

"She told me people aren't interested in buying collections of stories, and that I should pick one whose characters interested me enough to work into a full-length book," said Reid.

Reid selected a work titled "Moving," one out of a number of her shorter works of fiction. That story appears in the first chapter of her book, which introduces two young girls and their mother as they pack their belongings to move to Tennessee, away from their mentally deranged and absent father, Jameson.

The finished novel is published by

MacAdam/Cage, though several chapters have appeared in altered form in other publications.

"In the Breeze of Passing Things" has so far elicited positive reviews. Publisher's Weekly called the book "evocative" and "a richly imagined debut." Bestselling author Catherine Ryan Hyde ("Pay it Forward" and "Electric God") called it "a rare find" and called Reid "an author worth following." Another review published by Library Journal hails the book as an "eloquently drawn first novel."

The narrator of "In the Breeze of Passing Things" is Iva Giles, a 10 year-old girl who is being constantly moved around by her mother, Lilly. Her 6 year-

old sister, Mally accompanies them with each move that takes Iva further from her father and far beyond normalcy. What she longs for is the "perfect completion" of her distant memories, to find her father who she believes will be the one who truly loves her. In the end, she instead finds that being loved is being the one who does the leaving.

"Most of my writing explores themes of loss and absence," said Reid. "I care a great deal about rhythm, lyrical flow and voice of character."

Aside from teaching several Creative Writing classes at Behrend, Reid is currently working on her second novel for future publication.

"It's a traditional non closure novel,

though I'm not yet certain where it is going," said Reid. "Possibly someplace of sadness, where a queen has lost her blue flowerpot hat."

In addition to her recently released novel, Reid has had works of poetry, prose and short fiction published by The Southern Review, Meridian, Quarterly West, Black Warrior Review and Crab Orchard Review. She is the winner of the 2001 Willamette Award in Fiction, and has received awards from the Pirate's Alley William Faulkner Short Story Competition and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Society. She completed her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at George Mason University.